IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A shaft as claimed in Claim ~~1~~ 21 in which the displaceable material is a viscous liquid.

3. (Original) A shaft as claimed in Claim 2 in which the viscous liquid comprises a grease.

4. (Currently Amended) A shaft as claimed in Claim ~~1~~ 21 in which the housing is closed by a cover plate extending in a radial plane.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) A shaft as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 21 further comprising: spring means acting on the inertia mass and biasing it towards a position in which the radial width of the space is constant.

9. (Previously presented) A shaft as claimed in claim 2 further comprising: spring means acting on the inertia mass and biasing it towards a position in which the radial width of the space is constant.

10. (Previously presented) A shaft as claimed in claim 3 further comprising: spring means acting on the inertia mass and biasing it towards a position in which the radial width of the space is constant.

11. (Previously presented) A shaft as claimed in claim 4 further comprising: spring means acting on the inertia mass and biasing it towards a position in which the radial width of the space is constant.

12. (Currently Amended) A shaft as claimed in claim ~~1~~ <u>21</u> wherein: the thickness in the axial direction of the portion of the housing opposite to the direction of eccentricity is greater than that of the eccentric flange.

13. (Previously presented) A shaft as claimed in claim 2 wherein: the thickness in the axial direction of the portion of the housing opposite to the direction of eccentricity is greater than that of the eccentric flange.

14. (Previously presented) A shaft as claimed in claim 3 wherein: the thickness in the axial direction of the portion of the housing opposite to the direction of eccentricity is greater than that of the eccentric flange.

15. (Previously presented) A shaft as claimed in claim 4 wherein: the thickness in the axial direction of the portion of the housing opposite to the direction of eccentricity is greater than that of the eccentric flange.

16. (Previously presented) A shaft as claimed in claim 8 wherein: the thickness in the axial direction of the portion of the housing opposite to the direction of eccentricity is greater than that of the eccentric flange.

17. (Previously presented) A shaft as claimed in claim 9 wherein: the thickness in the axial direction of the portion of the housing opposite to the direction of eccentricity is greater than that of the eccentric flange.

18. (Previously presented) A shaft as claimed in claim 10 wherein: the thickness in the axial direction of the portion of the housing opposite to the direction of eccentricity is greater than that of the eccentric flange.

19. (Previously presented) A shaft as claimed in claim 11 wherein: the thickness in the axial direction of the portion of the housing opposite to the direction of eccentricity is greater than that of the eccentric flange.

20. (Currently amended) An automotive crankshaft for rotation about an axis and carrying at least one pair of axially spaced, radially extending eccentric crankwebs, at least one of which has a circular cylindrical radially outer surface, the axis of which is offset from the axis of the crankshaft and connected to which is the inner surface of an annular member of resilient elastomeric material, connected to the outer surface of which is the cylindrical inner surface of a annular inertia mass, the weight distribution of which counterbalances the eccentricity of the associated crankweb.

21. (New) A rotary shaft for rotation about an axis and carrying a substantial circular radially extending flange having a circumferential outer surface, said circular flange having an axis which is parallel to and offset from said axis of said rotary shaft,

a housing connected to said outer surface of said flange, said housing defining a cavity, said cavity having radially inner and radially outer cylindrical surfaces, said radially inner and outer cylindrical surfaces having axes which are offset from one another and which are both parallel to said axis of said rotary shaft,

an inertia mass within said cavity, said mass having radially inner and radially outer cylindrical surfaces, said radially inner and outer cylindrical surfaces having axes which are offset from one another and which are both parallel to said axis of said rotary shaft,

said radially inner cylindrical surfaces of said inertia mass and of said cavity forming a first facing pair of surfaces, said radially outer cylindrical surfaces of said inertia mass and of said cavity forming a second facing pair of surfaces,

one of said facing pairs of surfaces constituting bearing surfaces guiding motion of said inertia mass, the other of said facing pairs of surfaces being spaced apart to define a space accommodating a displaceable material,

said inertia mass and said cavity having dimensions in the radial direction which has a maximum value at a first position opposite to the direction of eccentricity and which decreases progressively in both circumferential directions to a second position offset by 180 degrees from the first position, and

said inertia mass and said cavity having relative dimensions to allow said inertia mass limited movement in rotation with respect to said cavity.